

FLOWER CREEK TIMBER SALE

May 19, 2008 Land Board

LOCATION OF SALE

- Libby Unit (NWLO) – Approximately 2 air miles south of Libby, Montana.
- Lincoln County - Section 16, T30N-R31W
- 100% Common School Income
- The proposed sale is within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

SALE VOLUME AND ESTIMATED VALUE

- The estimated volume is 23,647 tons (3,546 MBF), with an estimated minimum value of \$410,275.00 or \$17.35/ton.
- In addition to the estimated stumpage value, a fee of \$4.09/ton for Forest Improvement will be charged for all merchantable sawlog timber harvested.
- 6.67 tons/MBF is the conversion factor.

SALE AND HARVEST TREATMENTS

- 352 acres will be treated utilizing a seed tree regeneration harvest designed to capture existing mortality and to move the treated areas towards the desired future condition (DFC). Following harvesting, ponderosa pine and western white pine will be planted to promote the establishment of these seral species.
- 79 acres will be treated utilizing single tree selection harvest. These acres are all in Streamside Management Zones and will be treated according to the SMZ law.
- No old growth will be harvested.

HARVEST SYSTEMS

- 100% Tractor

ROAD CONSTRUCTION

- Approximately 1.05 miles of new road construction is required to access harvest units.
- Maintenance on 1.91 miles of existing roads is required to meet current Best Management Practices (BMP's).
- Current road restrictions will remain in place to maintain wildlife security, reduce the spread of noxious weeds, and minimize future maintenance costs.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND ISSUES

- Public involvement was solicited through a legal notice in the *Western News*. Letters were sent to adjacent landowners and special interest groups. The public and DNRC specialists helped identify the issues that were analyzed. Areas of concern were forest fuels, smoke generated by slash burning, aesthetics (visuals), and the spread of noxious weeds.

PUBLIC COMMENTS, ISSUES, AND MITIGATIONS

FUELS REDUCTION

This area has rural homesteads surrounding the Flower Creek project area and is within a wildland urban interface. This sale would reduce dense fuels within the urban interface. Firefighting efforts would benefit from the upgraded transportation system and proposed harvest prescriptions.

- ***SMOKE GENERATED BY SLASH BURNING***

As noted above, this timber sale is in an urban interface and inside the Libby airshed impact zone. In an effort to minimize smoke generated by slash burning, the department would require other management methods to address the accumulation of slash such as chipping or grinding.

- ***AESTHETICS***

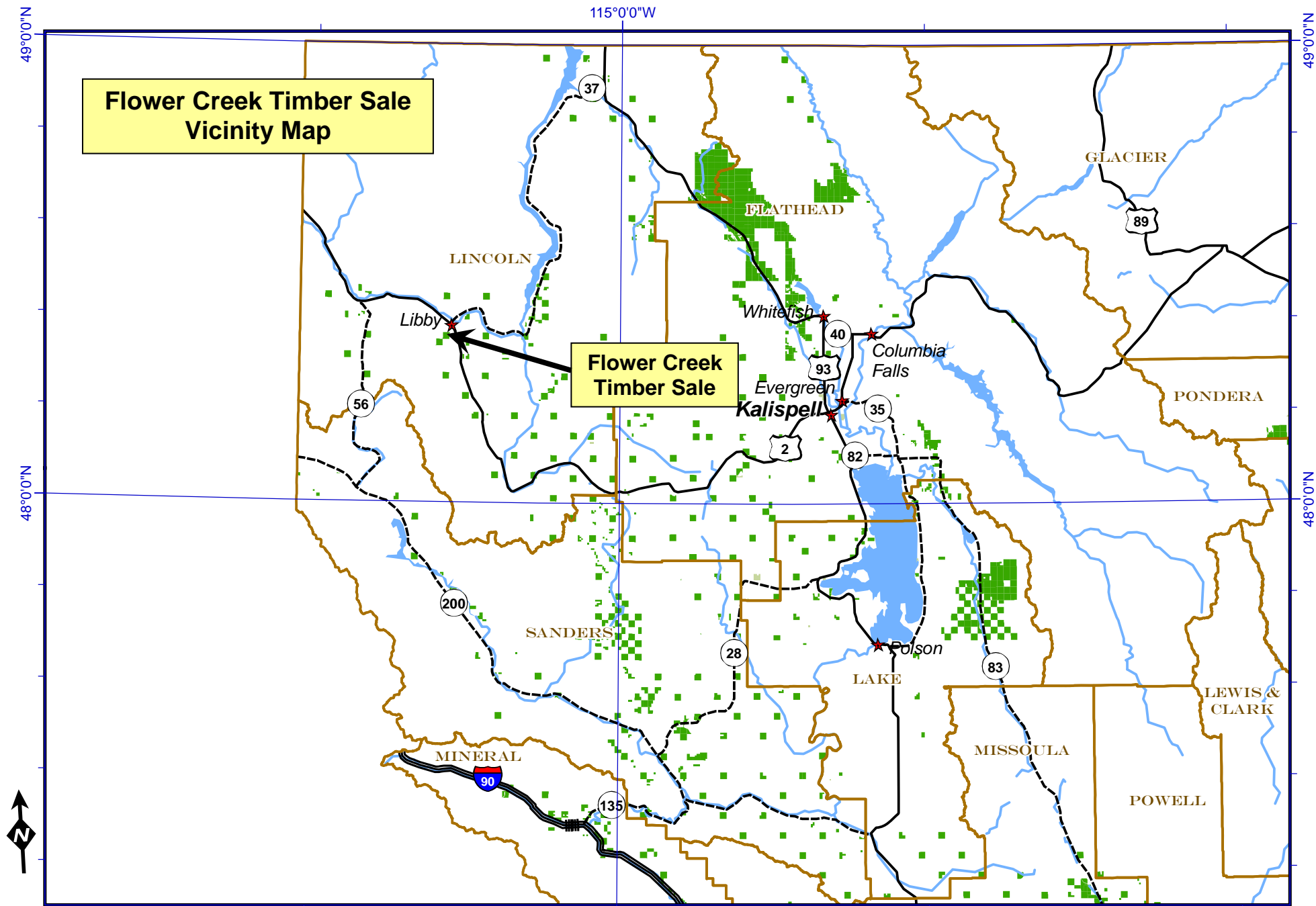
Adjacent to concerned property owners, select individual trees were retained.

- ***NOXIOUS WEEDS***

By using an integrated weed-management plan, the spread of weeds would be limited by the following:

- Off-road equipment used for felling, skidding, log processing, and loading activities would be washed and inspected before being brought on site.
- All disturbed areas would be grass seeded.
- The project area would be monitored and, if needed, scheduled for follow-up herbicide treatment.

The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the Flower Creek Timber Sale Project.

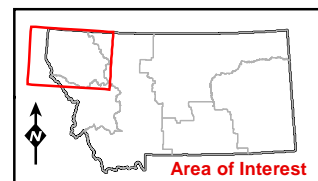


**Flower Creek Timber Sale
Vicinity Map**

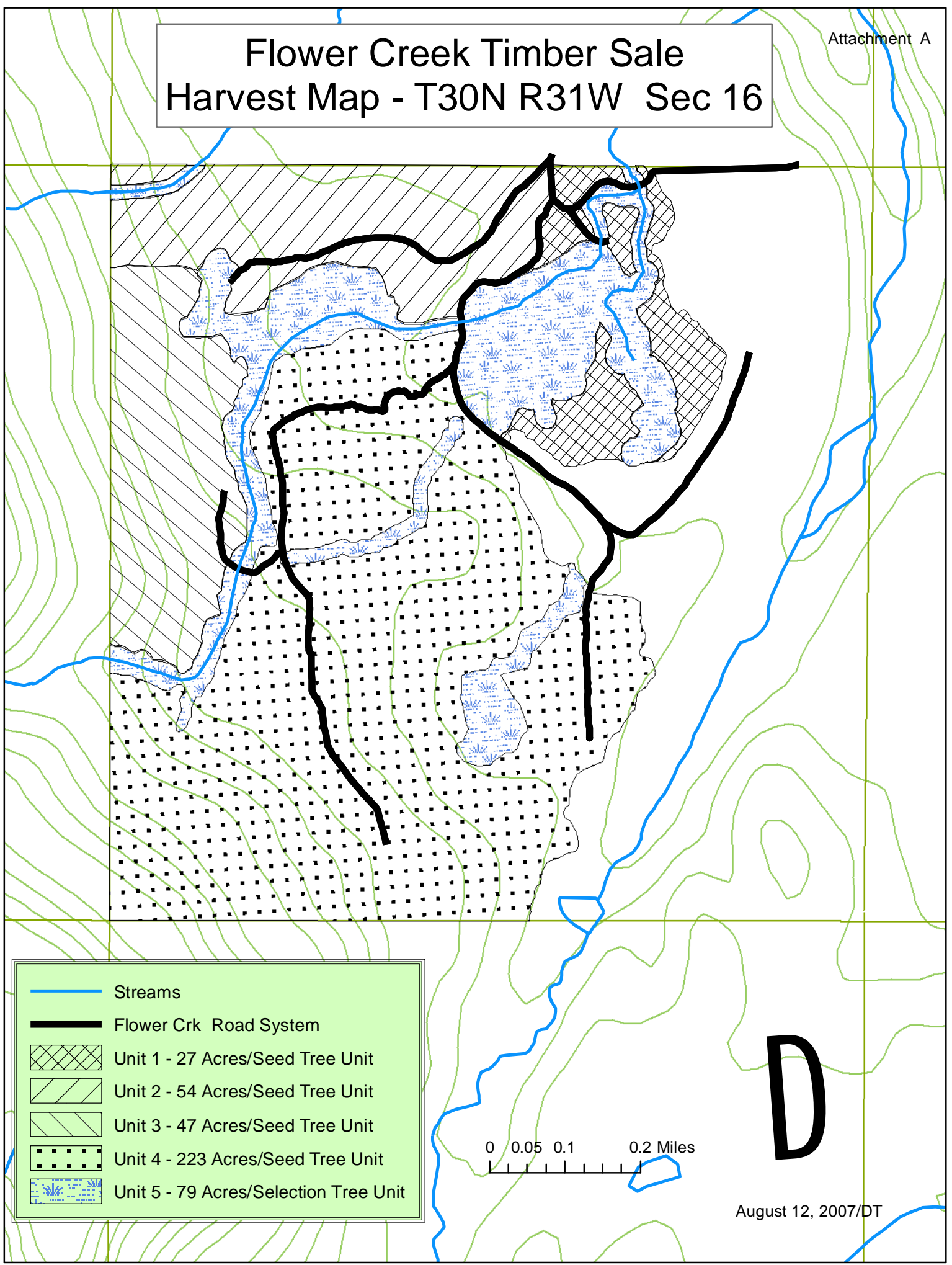
**Flower Creek
Timber Sale**

- | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--|--------|--|-------------------------|
| | Interstate Highway | | Rivers | | Lakes |
| | U.S. Route | | City | | DNRC managed for timber |
| | State Highway | | County | | DNRC other |

21 February 2007
Montana DNRC
Technical Services Section/dr



Flower Creek Timber Sale Harvest Map - T30N R31W Sec 16



Streams

Flower Crk Road System

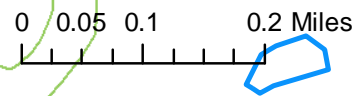
Unit 1 - 27 Acres/Seed Tree Unit

Unit 2 - 54 Acres/Seed Tree Unit

Unit 3 - 47 Acres/Seed Tree Unit

Unit 4 - 223 Acres/Seed Tree Unit

Unit 5 - 79 Acres/Selection Tree Unit



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August 12, 2007/DT

**Flower Creek Timber Sale
Road Development - T30N R31W Sec 16**

Attachment A

